

REMARKS

Claims 22, 23 and 26-64 currently appear in this application. Claims 26-63 have been withdrawn. The Office Action of September 10, 2008, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is noted that claim 21 is merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 21 has now been rewritten as claim 64, which claim includes the limitations of claim 20, upon which claim 21 was dependent. Claims 22 and 23 have been amended to depend from claim 64. As claim

64 is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22 and 23 should also be allowable.

Art Rejections

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funaoka et al., JP 2002/105240.

This rejection is now moot, as claim 20 has been cancelled.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funaoka et al. further in view of Tournier et al., US 4,511,433.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 22 has been amended to depend from new claim 64. As it is believed that claim 64 is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is now allowable.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funaoka in view of Mattison et al., US 4,936,999.

Appln. No. 10/577,645
Amd. dated December 8, 2008
Reply to Office Action of September 10, 2008

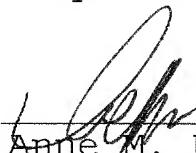
This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 23 has been amended to depend from new claim 64. As it is believed that claim 64 is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that claim 23 is now allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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